

Message Text

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11949 041132Z

22/10
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 119408

O 041007Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6750
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11949

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PASSING INSTRUCTIONS OMITTED)

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US, XE
SUBJ: ISRAELI GUN BOATS PREVENT RETURN OF MARINER TO
SITE 304.1

REF CAIRO 11885,

SUMMARY: WHEN MARINER RETURNED TO SITE 304.1 AT 0530
LOCAL SEPT 4, ISRAELI GUN BOAT APPEARED AND ORDERED IT TO
DEPART OR ITS TOW LINES TO ACCOMPANYING WORK BOATS WOULD
BE CUT. TWO EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS APPEARED IMMEDIATELY AND
INSTRUCTED MARINER TO IGNORE ISRAELI ORDERS AND TO
REUTRN TO 304.1. MARINER HAS DEPARTED 304.1 AND IS NOW IN
JULY FIELD. ISRAELI GUN BOAT AND TWO EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS
ARE MANEUVERING IN THE AREA AND THERE IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT
THAT ISRAELIS FIRED 2-4 SHOTS, PROBABLY AT TWO LARGE MARKER
BUOYS SET BY AMOCO IN SITE 304Q AMOCO HAS INSTRUCTED MARINER
TO STAND CLEAR OF 304.1 UNTIL ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN BOATS
LEAVE. SITUATION SEEMS TO BE AT AN IMPASSE, BUT EGYPTIANS
ARE DESPATCHING ADDITIONAL NAVAL SHIP FROM SAFAGA AND POSS-
IBILITY OF NAVAL INCIDENT IS HIGH.

1. AT 1030 THIS MORNING, DAVE WILKIE OF AMOCO TELEPHONED
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 11949 041132Z

EMBASSY TO REPORT ON LATEST INCIDENT CONCERNING MARINER'S
ATTEMPTS TO INITIATE OIL EXPLOATION AT SITE 304.1. RIG ARRIVED
AT SITE ABOUT 0530 AND WASY IMMEDIATELY APPROACHED BY
ISRAELI GUN BOAT, WHICH INSTRUCTED IT TO DEPART IMMEDIATE

OR ITS TOW LINES TO TWO ACCOMPANYING WORK BOATS (PAN MARINE'S CORRAL TIDE AND DUTCH TIDE) WOULD BE CUT. MARINER FOREMAN BEGAN MOVING RIG TOWARD JULY FIELD AWAY FROM 304.1. TWO EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS APPEARED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER AND INSTRUCTED MARINER TO RETURN TO 304.1, WHICH MARINER REFUSED TO DO, CONTINUING IN DIRECTION OF JULY FIELD. EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI GUN BOATS THEREUPON BEGAN PARALLELING EACH OTHER, HEADED IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION BETWEEN RAMADAN SIX RIG AND SITE 304.1.

2. AT ABOUT 0845 MARINER REPORTED IT HAD HEARD ISRAELI SHIP FIRE 2-4 SHOTS AND HAD SEEN PUFFS OF SMOKE BUT DID NOT SEE RESULTS OF SUCH FIRING. GUN BOATS WERE BY THEN SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM MARINER AND A SUBSEQUENT PHONE CALL FROM WILKIE INDICATES THAT ISRAELIS WERE PROBABLY FIRING AT TWO LARGE MARKER BUOYS SET IN SITE 304.1 TO MARK DRILLING LOCATION. AMOCO BELIEVES THESE BUOYS HAVE BEEN SUNK BECAUSE THEY CAN NO LONGER BE SEEN THROUGH FIELD GLASSES. EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS REPORTED THEY HAD NOT BEEN FIRED UPON.

3. AFTER REPORTED FIRINGS, ALL THREE GUN BOATS TURNED SOUTH, STILL PARALLELING EACH OTHER, AND APPROACHED SHILOH RIG TWO MILES SOUTH OF RAMADAN FIELD. AT ABOUT 0950 THE LARGER EGYPTIAN GUN BOAT REPORTED ENGINE TROUBLE AND HEADED TOWARD MARINER, WHICH NOW IS AT J-25 SOUTH OF THE JULY FIELD. FOUR OTHER ISRAELI PATROL BOATS ARE STANDING BY EAST OF 304.1 LOCATION.

4. SECOND PHONE CALL FROM WILKIE REGARDING SHOOTING INCIDENT ALSO REPORTED THAT LARGER EGYPTIAN GUN BOAT WAS NOW ALONG SIDE MARINER AT J-25 AND IS CONTINUING TO INSTRUCT MARINER FOREMAN TO RETURN TO 304.1. EGYPTIANS ARE DESPATCHING A THIRD NAVAL VESSEL FROM SAFAGA WHIWHC WILL ARRIVE ON SCENE AT APPROX 1530. A SIXTH ISRAELI PATROL VESSEL HAS APPEARED ON RADA SCREEN EAST OF SITE 304.1

5. AMOCO HAS INSTRUCTED MARINER TO STAND CLEAR OF 304.1
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 11949 041132Z

SITE UNTIL ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS LEAVE THE AREA, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY TO HAPPEN SOON.

6. WILKIE STATES THAT ALL ABOVE REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECORDED AND THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HE HAS ACCURATELY RELAYED REPORTS HE HAS RECEIVED.

7. COMMENT: SITUATION OFF RAS SHUKAIR IS TENSE AND POSSIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NAVAL INCIDENT REMAINS HIGH, ALTHOUGH MARINER AND ITS CREW APPEAR LESS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED THAN IF THEY WERE AT SITE 304.1 FOR TIME BEING, ISRAELIS HAVE AGAIN SUCCEEDED IN PREVENTING EXPLORATION IN SITE 304.1 AND IF THEY HAVE IN FACT SUNK TWO MARKING BUOYS

SET BY AMERICAN COMPANY IN AMERICAN CONCESSION, THEY HAVE
DESTROYED AMERICAN PROPERTY BY MILITARY ACTION AND HAVE
FURTHER DELAYED AMOCO'S EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT IS CONCESSIONARY
RIGHTS.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: CAIRO 11949 NOT PASSED TO SECRETARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP HARASSMENT, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, SHIP INTERCEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO11949
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760336-0510
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609108/baaaeryo.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI GUN BOATS PREVENT RETURN OF MARINER TO SITE 304.1
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US, XF, AMOCO
To: STATE NIACT INFO TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006